

DOE Receives Government-Industry Data Exchange Program Award

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently received the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) Failure Data Experience Award for Government. This award is presented each year by the GIDEP Program Manager to the top government activity that has exhibited overall excellence in participation and management of the GIDEP. Mr. Thomas Rotella, Office of Defense Programs, the Department's representative to GIDEP, received the award for his effort in disseminating information about suspect/counterfeit parts to other government agencies.

In a letter to Secretary Richardson, Mr. John T. Conway, Chairman of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), commended Mr. Rotella's effort, stating that through his work in effectively disseminating information concerning suspect/counterfeit parts he "has significantly contributed to public and worker safety at defense nuclear facilities and has contributed to the success of vital national security missions." He also indicated that "Mr. Rotella's award is high praise for the Department of Energy." Secretary Richardson's response to this commendation letter noted that Mr. Rotella "provided leadership, vision, and energy to make the Department's participation in GIDEP rise to the level that was envisioned when ISM [Integrated Safety Management] was initiated." He also noted that "Mr. Rotella's performance will be used as an example of what can be achieved as we proceed with my safety initiatives."



The GIDEP is a cooperative activity between government and industry that seeks to reduce or eliminate expenditures of resources by making maximum use of existing information. The program provides a media to exchange technical information essential during research, design, development, production, and operational phases of systems, facilities, and equipment. In addition to DOE and representatives from industries that produce parts, components, and equipment for the government, participating organizations include the U. S. Army, Navy, and Air Force; the Defense Logistics Agency and National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA); the departments of Labor and Commerce; the General Services Administration and Federal Aviation Administration; the U. S. Postal Service; the National Institute of Standards and Technology and National Security Agency; and the Canadian Department of Defence. GIDEP participants are provided with electronic access to six major types of data, one of which is Failure Experience Data. This category contains objective failure information as a result of ALERTs, SAFE-ALERTs, Problem Advisories and Agency Action Notices that advises users about nonconforming parts, components, chemicals, processes, materials, and hazardous situations. Failure analysis data and problem information submitted from laboratory analysis are also included in this category.

This award marks a significant milestone in the Department's efforts to improve programs within DOE to prevent the introduction of suspect/counterfeit parts into safety-related or mission-sensitive applications. Mr. Rotella praised the collegial efforts of the DOE Quality Assurance Working Group and the DOE Society of Effective Lessons Learned Sharing. Secretary Richardson stated his intent to prominently display the plaque recognizing this achievement in the lobby of the DOE Headquarters building as a reminder that "the Department can and should be the best in government" and that "individuals at the Department of Energy, such as Tom Rotella, are leading, achieving, and being recognized for it as we strive to be the best."